

Buffalo Gas Light Company
249 W. Genesee St.
Buffalo
Erie County
New York

HAER No. NY-64

HAER
NY
15-BUF
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NY-64

BUFFALO GAS LIGHT COMPANY

HAER
NY,
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23-

Date: 1848, brick retort
1859, retort house engine room & blacksmith shop
1877, coal storage facility/boiler room

Location: 249 W. Genesee St. Buffalo, Erie County NY

Designed by: 1859 addition; John H. Selkirk

Owned by: Originally; Buffalo Gas Light Company
Presently; National Fuel Gas Company

Significance: The Buffalo Gas Light Company began the manufacture of illuminating gas from coal in horizontal retorts in 1848. At that time the designated lamp district in the city contained 179 lights with fan tail burners. In 1859 an addition was made to the front of the retort house. A 250 foot Norman facade of brick dressed with ashlar masonry, designed by John H. Selkirk, contained an engine room and a blacksmith shop and other support facilities. Today all operating equipment has been removed and the gasholders have been dismantled. The buildings on the site are being used for storage and vehicle maintenance. These buildings stand as examples of the growing gas light industry in the United States during the 19th century.

Transmitted by: Dan Clement, 1983. With data drawn from the HAER Inventory Card prepared by T.E. Leary.